

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend claims 1, 7 and 11 as shown below, in which deleted terms are shown with strikethrough and added terms are shown with underscoring. Please cancel claim 8 without prejudice and without abandonment of the subject matter therein. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (currently amended). A fuel inlet apparatus for a personal watercraft, the personal watercraft comprising a craft body, the craft body comprising a deck and with a fuel tank disposed in the craft body, said fuel inlet apparatus comprising :

a fuel fill member for attaching to said deck and for connecting to a fuel supply hose extending from said fuel tank, said fuel fill member comprising a tubular routing structure;

a fill cap for closing off an outer end of said fuel fill member;

a chain having one end thereof fastened to the inside of said tubular routing structure, and the other end of said chain being fastened to said fill cap; and

a protective tube surrounding a portion of said chain at a location thereof which contacts said fuel fill member when said fill cap is removed,

wherein said tubular routing structure comprises a fuel filling portion formed at said outer end, and comprises plural hose connecting portions at an end opposed to said outer end, each of the plural hose connecting portions extending in parallel to the tubular routing structure and opening directly thereinto, and

wherein the protective tube is maintained in a desired position on said chain by means of a tube stop member.

Claim 2 (previously presented). A fuel inlet apparatus for a personal watercraft, the personal watercraft comprising a craft body, the craft body comprising a deck and with a fuel tank disposed in the craft body, said fuel inlet apparatus comprising :

a fuel fill member for attaching to said deck and for connecting to a fuel supply hose extending from said fuel tank, said fuel fill member comprising a tubular routing structure;

a fill cap for closing off an outer end of said fuel fill member;

a chain having one end thereof fastened to the inside of said tubular routing structure, and the other end of said chain being fastened to said fill cap;

a protective tube surrounding a portion of said chain at a location thereof which contacts said fuel fill member when said fill cap is removed; and

further comprising a tube stopper attached to said chain, for limiting movement of said protective tube on said chain.

Claim 3 (original). A fuel inlet apparatus for a personal watercraft according to claim 2, wherein said tube stopper comprises a bead attached to said chain.

Claim 4 (original). A fuel for a personal watercraft according to claim 2, wherein said tube stopper comprises a slit washer attached to said chain.

Claim 5 (original) A fuel inlet apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising at least one stop member disposed within said tubular routing structure for limiting the extent to which a fuel nozzle can be inserted therein.

Claim 6 (original) A fuel inlet apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising at least one stop member disposed within said tubular routing structure for limiting the extent to which a fuel nozzle can be inserted therein.

Claim 7 (currently amended). A fuel inlet apparatus for a personal watercraft, the personal watercraft comprising a craft body, the craft body comprising a deck and with a fuel tank disposed in the craft body, said fuel inlet apparatus comprising :

a fuel fill member for attaching to said deck and for connecting to a fuel supply hose extending from said fuel tank, said fuel fill member comprising a tubular routing structure;

at least one stop member disposed within said tubular routing structure for limiting the extent to which a fuel nozzle can be inserted therein;

a fill cap for closing off an outer end of said fuel fill member;

a chain having one end thereof fastened to the inside of said tubular routing structure, and the other end of said chain being fastened to said fill cap; and

a protective tube surrounding a portion of said chain at a location thereof which contacts said fuel fill member when said fill cap is removed, the protective tube being physically separate and spaced apart from fastening structures for the chain,

wherein said tubular routing structure comprises plural hose connecting portions at an end opposed to said outer end,

the fuel inlet apparatus further comprising a tube stopper attached to said chain, for limiting movement of said protective tube on said chain.

Claim 8 (canceled).

Claim 9 (original). A fuel inlet apparatus for a personal watercraft according to claim 2, wherein said tube stopper comprises a bead attached to said chain.

Claim 10 (original). A fuel inlet apparatus for a personal watercraft according to claim 2, wherein said tube stopper comprises a slit washer attached to said chain.

Claim 11 (currently amended). In a personal watercraft, the personal watercraft comprising a craft body, the craft body comprising a deck and with a fuel tank disposed in the craft body, the improvement comprising a fuel inlet apparatus, the fuel inlet apparatus comprising:

a fuel fill member for attaching to said deck and for connecting to a fuel supply hose extending from said fuel tank, said fuel fill member comprising a tubular routing structure;

a fuel supply hose attached to the fuel fill member;

a fill cap for closing off an outer end of said fuel fill member;

a chain having one end thereof fastened to the inside of said tubular routing structure, and the other end of said chain being fastened to said fill cap; and

a protective tube surrounding a portion of said chain at a location thereof which contacts said fuel fill member when said fill cap is removed,

wherein the protective tube is maintained in a desired position on said chain by means of a tube stop member.

Claim 12 (previously presented). In a personal watercraft, the personal watercraft comprising a craft body, the craft body comprising a deck and with a fuel tank disposed in the

craft body, the improvement comprising a fuel inlet apparatus, the fuel inlet apparatus comprising:

a fuel fill member for attaching to said deck and for connecting to a fuel supply hose extending from said fuel tank, said fuel fill member comprising a tubular routing structure;

a fill cap for closing off an outer end of said fuel fill member;

a chain having one end thereof fastened to the inside of said tubular routing structure, and the other end of said chain being fastened to said fill cap;

a protective tube surrounding a portion of said chain at a location thereof which contacts said fuel fill member when said fill cap is removed; and

a tube stopper attached to said chain, for limiting movement of said protective tube on said chain.